Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 212299

61
ORIGIN EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-02 SR-02 ORM-01 PRS-01 SCA-01

VO-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

FBIE-00 SY-02 NSC-10 /056 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WDYESS:CR
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P 262328Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212299

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC PINS PINR
SUBJECT:SOVIET DEFECTOR YEVGENI SOROKIN

REF: STATE 205671, NOV 72

1. YEVGENI SOROKIN, WHO DEFECTED LAST YEAR IN VIENTIANE AND HAS BEEN LIVING IN US,HAS DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE USSR. HE EXPECTS TO DEPART BY AEROFLOT ON OCTOBER 28 FROM NEW YORK. SOVIET EMBASSY INFORMED DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 23 OF SOROKIN'S DESIRE TO LEAVE AND PREDEPARTURE PROCEDURE WAS BEGUN.
2. AT FIRST PREDEPARTURE INTERVIEW ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, SOROKIN UNACCOUNTABLY DECLINED TO ANSWER ROUTINE QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY INS AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH HE REACHED STATED DECISION TO RETURN. SOROKIN ALSO REFUSED TO SIGN STANDARD INS STATEMENT THAT HE HAD ENTERED THE US AND WAS NOW DEPARTING THE US VOLUNTARILY. IN VIEW OF SOROKIN'S UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR, INTER-VIEW PANEL WAS UNABLE TO REACH CONCLUSION THAT HIS RETURN WAS FULLY VOLUNTARY. (PANEL CONSISTED OF INS INSPECTOR,
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PAGE 02 STATE 212299

STATE DEPARTMENT PHYSICIAN, AND STATE DEPARTMENT POLITICAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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OFFICER.) SOROKIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOVIET EMBASSY CONSU-
LAR OFFICER.

3. AT SECOND PREDEPARTURE INTERVIEW ON AFTERNOON OF
OCTOBER 26 -- HELD BECAUSE OF INCONCLUSIVE NATURE OF

OCTOBER 25 INTERVIEW -- SOROKIN ANSWERED QUESTIONS MORE
FULLY AND PANEL CONCLUDED THAT HIS STATED DESIRE TO
RETURN PROBABLY REFLECTED HIS ACTUAL FEELINGS IN THE
MATTER. SOROKIN SIGNED STANDARD STATEMENT ATTESTING THAT
HIS ENTRY AND DEPARTURE FROM US WAS VOLUNTARY.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL POUCH EMBASSY MEMORANDA FOR THE
RECORD WHICH SET OUT IN DETAIL THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
SOROKIN CASE.

5. AS WITH OTHER RECENT REDEFECTORS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT
SOROKIN'S DEPARTURE WILL BE PICKED UP BY THE PRESS. TO
ANY PRESS INQUIRIES, DEPARTMENT WILL CONFIRM ONLY THAT
STANDARD PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED IN ARRANGING SOROKIN'S
DEPARTURE. WE WILL CONFIRM THAT SOROKIN WAS INTERVIEWED
BY INS AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND THAT A DETERMINATION
WAS MADE THAT HE DESIRED TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION. KISSINGER

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